

With the amount of labor which has been expended in making this the most up-to-date text-book the author mentions a number of interesting and important facts lately brought to light by clinical observations and animal experimentation. There is no doubt that as future editions appear this chapter will become more and more essential and helpful toward the treatment of a number of diseases.

The general plan of the book, its clear descriptions, its numerous illustrations and its thorough consideration of the medical treatment of gynecological diseases are already well known and require no comment. J. M. S.

Diseases of Bones and Joints. By Leonard W. Ely, M. D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Leland Stanford Junior Univ., San Francisco, Cal. Sextodecimo: 220 pages, 94 illustrations. Surgery Publishing Co., New York. Price, cloth, \$2.00.

This is a modest volume of approximately one-fourth the size of the standard work of Goldthwait, Painter and Osgood, bearing the same title. As set forth in the preface, our author aims to lay down broad general principles, and to avoid a mass of detail, tending only to confuse the general practitioner for whom the work is primarily intended. In so doing, however, it would seem too much space is given to the pathology and not enough to the principles of diagnosis and treatment, the latter especially being of interest to the general practitioner.

The well-known contention of the author concerning the etiology of bone-tuberculosis—i. e., that it can occur only in synovia and red marrow—is clearly elucidated and well defended. However, Fraser of Edinburgh, in a paper read before the Orthopedic Section of the A. M. A. last year, presented logical reasons for believing that bone marrow in general and not the red variety in particular, may be the seat of the disease, thus directly opposing our author's views.

It is only through such scientific differences of opinion as these that we arrive at the truth, hence on this point alone the book has a claim to existence. The author also makes a good working classification of the large class of chronic arthritides of undetermined origin, concerning which there has always been so much confusion in the past. This classification is based upon the pathology, as is proper.

The book is profusely illustrated, and the language used is terse, simple and free from too scientific nomenclature. In general, its sins—or shall we say virtues—are only those of omission.

G. J. McC.

Local and Regional Anesthesia, including Analgesia. By Carroll W. Allen, M. D., of Tulane University, New Orleans, with an introduction by Rudolph Matas, M. D., of Tulane University, New Orleans. Octavo of 625 pages with 255 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1914. Cloth, \$6.00 net; half morocco, \$7.50 net.

The number of books on local anesthesia issuing from the American press marks a praiseworthy reawakening of American interest. Like not a few other procedures originating and having their early beginnings in this country, local anesthesia lay fallow until European authorities worked out and perfected methods fit for general application. The words of the prophets have had to be

reintroduced to their own country in order to receive proper recognition and attention.

Allen's is the first comprehensive American treatise on this subject. In a number of chapters, especially those on the head and face, certain selected methods have received exhaustive attention, particularly those worked out by the author's teacher, Matas. They are elucidated by numerous good illustrations, taken mainly from the writings of Braun and Härtel. We regret not being able to find much more to praise in what seemed at first sight a most promising book. Most of the other chapters are less well worked out. A number of important methods have been passed by without mention—Hirschel's anesthesia for cancer of the breast, and Gros' use of anesthetic drugs in bicarbonate solution, for instance. The book is elaborate and perhaps even unnecessarily discursive within certain set limits, where the reader feels that Allen has had abundant personal experience, but it is disappointing in not giving the general oversight to be expected of so bulky and pretentious a volume.

A number of the opinions brought forward are not in keeping with modern practice; one must assume that they have been formulated more on theoretical grounds than as a result of personal trial. E. g., the author advocates blocking the larger nerves and plexus only after laying them bare: "The paraneural injection of the brachial plexus both above the clavicle and below it in the axilla, as has been recommended and practiced by some operators, but particularly in the axilla, is a far too dangerous procedure to find a place in the operative methods of conservative operators" (p. 218). This rejection of methods which in the hands of others have had so widespread a success must be regarded as a distinct step backward, and cannot proceed from sufficient personal experience and trial. To reject the subcutaneous method of brachial plexus anesthesia would take the procedure out of the hands of the general practitioner and rob it of half its usefulness.

The arrangement of the book does not seem to follow either systemic or regional anatomy, and it is difficult to find one's way about in it. Matters relating to the anesthesia of one particular nerve are scattered about in half a dozen various paragraphs.

As to style—there is none. Sentences eight or ten lines long, wanting subjects or predicates, and all sorts of grammatical errors—"achievements is," "this phenomena," "openings is"—the book bristles with them, and they make disagreeable reading enough, but mistakes like 4% B-Eucain instead of 0.4% (p. 217)—these might cost a life!

What is in the book is too valuable to be spoiled. Subsequent editions should receive thorough revision from A to Z.

The book is full of excellent illustrations, which alone make it worth having. It is well printed and bound. L. E.

A Treatise of the Nose, Throat and Ear. By William Lincoln Ballenger, M. D., Professor of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago. New (4th) edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo, 1080 pages, with 536 engravings, mostly original, and 33 plates. Cloth, \$5.50 net. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York, 1914.

The fourth edition of Ballenger's text-book will serve only to increase its already great popularity.